

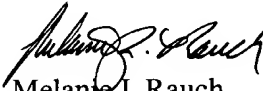
**REMARKS**

The specification has been amended to delete an incorrect statement. More specifically, at page 32, lines 1-3, an incorrect observation was made with respect to the tested codes.

Claims 12-14 and 31-33 have been amended to claim gel strength levels of superabsorbent material rather than gel strength levels of the absorbent pad. Support for this amendment is found on page 16, lines 16-19, of the specification where it is clearly indicated that the gel strength levels of the superabsorbent material were determined. Claims 31 and 32 have been further amended to claim different gel strength levels than the gel strength level recited in Claim 33. Support for the amended gel strength levels in Claims 31 and 32 is found on page 16, lines 17-19, of the specification. No new matter has been added.

Applicants believe that no fee is due at this time. If, however, a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-3550.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

In the Specification:

At page 31, line 16 – page 32, line 3:

To test the intake time of each sample, each sample was tested with each of the four types of surge layers, using the procedure described immediately following, in which three 35 mL insults are applied to each sample. The results of this test for Codes 1-5 are shown in the chart in Fig. 6 and the results of this test for Codes 6-8 are shown in the chart in Fig. 7. As can be seen in Figs. 6 and 7, the lowest consistent intake time was observed in the samples made using the 100 gsm second surge layer, described above, with the intake time of each of the samples being fairly consistent with one another. [Comparing the samples using the other three surge layers, the sample having the highest percentage of SAP, namely Code 4, outperformed the other samples.]

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

In the Claims:

12. (Amended) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the [absorbent pad] superabsorbent material has a gel strength of at least 0.65.

13. (Amended) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the [absorbent pad] superabsorbent material has a gel strength of at least 0.75.

14. (Amended) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the [absorbent pad] superabsorbent material has a gel strength of at least 0.85.

31. (Amended) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the [absorbent pad] superabsorbent material has a gel strength of at least [0.85] 0.65.

32. (Amended) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the [absorbent pad] superabsorbent material has a gel strength of at least [0.85] 0.75.

33. (Amended) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the [absorbent pad] superabsorbent material has a gel strength of at least 0.85.